

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

HEW-02 /035 W

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R 211437Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3771

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3392

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS SWEL ET

SUBJECT: MEDICAL SITUATION IN ERITREA

REF: (A) STATE 062880; (B) ASMARA 0344

1. IN RESPONSE PARA 2 REF A, EMBASSY AGREES THAT PRAGMATIC ROUTE TO REACH PEOPLE WITH MEDICAL SUPPLIES IS FOR CONSULATE TO PROVIDE THEM DIRECTLY TO ITEGI MENNEN HOSPITAL, INFORMALLY IF NECESSARY.

2. THE ICRC ASSESSMENT OF THE ATTITUDE AND INHIBITIONS OF THE ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS (ERC), AS REPORTED IN ADDIS 3340 AND ASMARA'S 344, SUGGESTS WE SHOULD WORK THROUGH THE ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS RATHER THAN THROUGH THE ADDIS HEADQUARTERS. WE BELIEVE THIS MAY BE BEST ROUTE, PROVIDING CONGEN CAN SUBSTANTIATE ICRC IMPRESSION THAT ERC STILL IN CONTROL OF ICRC RELIEF COMMODITIES FROM MASSAWA AND HAS CAPABILITY AND WILL TO DISTRIBUTE SAME TO POERSONS IN NEED.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES FURTHER US REPRESENTATIONS TO PMG SHOULD AWAIT MORE CONCLUSIVE DATA ON SPECIFIC NEEDS IN ERITREA OF WHICH CONGEN MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BECOME AWARE. IN THE EVENT ICRC ALLOWED OPERATE IN ERITREA, THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE EXCELLENT VEHICLE FOR CHANNELING AMERICAN RELIEF SUPPLIES.

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4. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SOME MISSIONARIES PREPARING TO RETURN TO ERITREA AND OTHERS MAY FOLLOW IF SECURITY SITUATION DEVELOPS FAVORABLY, THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT SMALL-SCALE RELIEF SUPPLIES COULD EVENTUALLY BE CHANNELED THROUGH THEM. HOWEVER, GIVEN THEIR VULNERABILITY TO INSURGENT PRESSURES AND EPMG COUNTER-PRESSURES, CAREFUL HANDLING OF RELIEF ACTIVITIES WOULD BE REQUIRED VIA THIS ROUTE.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT AID'S AVAILABLE EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS MAY BE UTILIZED FOR PURPOSE OF PROCUREMENT PERTINENT SUPPLIES. ONCE THIS CONFIRMED CONGEN CAN REPORT WHAT IS NEEDED.
WYMAN

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